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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

February 26, 1953

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE NEW YORK AREA

may soon have an opportunity to enroll for training similar to that offered by GS. Martin B. Dworkis, assistant to the dean of the graduate division of public service, New York University, has written us to ask about the desirability and possibility of setting up a program similar to the one recently inaugurated at Boston University.

In his letter to O. B. Conaway, Dr. Dworkis says he feels sure this venture will have the backing of the New York Federal Personnel Council, the Federal Purchasing Officers' Association, and the Civil Service Assembly chapter.

And so it appears that our move to enhance opportunities for training Federal employees across the nation is beginning to snowball. Enrollment in the joint program with Boston University is 161 in the three courses which were offered. I think this is an excellent beginning and the Boston people are to be congratulated on their fine work.

The program at Boston University was described in an interesting article in the January issue of the BU GRADUATE JOURNAL. The author, Troy R. Westmeyer, assistant professor of government, notes that "The steps which led to the development of the special program make a case history among individuals and groups, which is pleasant to contemplate.

"The primary result of the wealth of cooperation," Dr. Westmeyer continues, "is the establishment of three courses. This is, however, expected to be only the basis of a program, which will grow and change to meet the needs of government employees in this area.

"Plans have been made to carry on additional polling to learn the training needs of government workers. Analysis of the information will divulge requirements that can be met successfully by professional training through an enlarged special program. The additional flexibility and concentration possible through the special program multiplies the usefulness of the BU Institute of Public Service."

WE HAVE APPROVAL

of the General Administration Board for a policy that will permit GS to seek and to accept assistance from foundations interested in improving Federal personnel training and in other GS programs. T. Roy Reid, Claude R. Wickard, Ivy W. Duggan, R. M. Salter, O. V. Wells and C. O. Henderson attended the meeting of the Board, February 2. They approved the annual, financial, and statistical reports for 1951-52.

A PROPOSAL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

to study survey-methods in the social sciences has been drawn up by the GS Committee on Internships in Sampling. Pointing to the serious scarcity of experts in the design and execution of dependable and efficient surveys, the Committee holds that much of the money now being spent for social research is spent inefficiently because of faulty design or conduct of the surveys. To produce the experts required, Committee members say that theoretical training should be supplemented by one or two years of actual survey experience in a large-scale operation under competent leadership. Washington is a world-center for the technical development of large-scale surveys.

According to a plan drawn up by the Committee, an internship program, under the guidance of a project director, would enable each intern to participate in several types of surveys that are carried out in Washington and to participate in seminars with other interns to discuss problems of statistical surveys. A scholarship holder would be able to supplement his studies of basic mathematical theory by GS courses in the theory of sampling and experimental design.

The program would require a director who had a mathematical background in the theory of sampling and design of experiments, experience in planning and conducting large-scale surveys, and familiarity with government agencies.

The Committee proposes that GS seek foundation funds to provide stipends for possibly 4 interns and a salary for the project director.

FOREIGN TRAINEES IN AGRICULTURE

and methods by which their training programs can be shaped to serve them better were interestingly discussed at a 3-day meeting of contact officers in the Land-Grant College Association and USDA, February 2-4.

As co-chairman with President John Hannah of Michigan State College of the joint-USDA-LGCA committee on service to foreign areas, I presided at the opening session and discussed the report of the joint committee.

Our committee has recommended: (1) that a single office in USDA continue to maintain contact with a single representative in each of the colleges; (2) that choice of the institution giving vocational training to foreign trainees be based on the competence of that institution to give the training; and (3) that we continue to build up strong sister-relations between institutions in this country and in the foreign areas from which the students are drawn.

This third annual meeting brought representatives from all Land-Grant colleges in the United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. In addition to the contact officers from the Negro Land-Grant Colleges, Tuskegee Institute also was represented at the conference.

FINE COMMITTEE COOPERATION

makes it possible for GS to offer its present program, I told personnel officers of USDA in a meeting, February 3. At their invitation I discussed current activities of GS and our interest in finding ways to be of greater service to USDA employees both in the Washington area and across the country.

AMONG NEW STAFF MEMBERS ARE:

Jerry Eller, administrative assistant to Congressman Fred Marshall of Minnesota, who is teaching the course, 6-400, ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANTS formerly given by Eva Adams. Mr. Eller is a graduate of St. John's College and has taught in Minnesota.

Mrs. Mays McKnight and Howard Penenburgh, transportation specialists for the Marine Corps, who are teaching additional sections of 7-461 TRANSPORTATION RATES AND RATE DETERMINATION, a course taught by A. S. Dolch.

Smith Dawless, State Department editor and writer, who is conducting 2-281, FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP. Mr. Dawless, a former student at Stanford and the University of Southern California, was for several years a script writer for Warner Brothers and has taught at San Bernardino College.

Katherine Ward, professor of English at Maryland and a former GS teacher, has returned this semester to take over Frances Miller's section of 2-222A ENGLISH COMPOSITION. Dr. Ward spent the past year on an exchange fellowship in Greece.

William C. Dye, another GS teacher who has been out of town for some time -- on an assignment in Colorado for Interior -- has returned to Washington with the Defense Department and is taking over the course 6-510 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS formerly taught by Laurence W. Acker.

We estimate enrollment for the spring term will be more than 2600 students but about 200 below that of last spring.

SMALL PLANES ARE STANDARD EQUIPMENT

In some Southwestern schools I learned this past month in a visit to seven institutions in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas for the Southern Regional Education Board. College-owned planes served as a handy means of travel to widely separated schools. The institutions visited included: in Texas -- A. & M. at College Station, the University at Austin, and Tech at Lubbock; in Oklahoma -- A. & M. at Stillwater and the University at Norman; and in Arkansas, the University at Fayetteville.

At each school my time was devoted to series of conferences with the president, deans, heads of departments, and other administrative officials. The objective was to gain a picture of the variables in tradition, organization, and administration, out of which we can visualize the possibilities for strengthening graduate instruction and research in basic and applied agricultural sciences through inter-agency and university cooperation.

This coming month I plan to continue my work for SREB with visits to three schools in Florida -- the University at Gainesville, State College at Tallahassee, and the University of Miami.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

comprised more than one-third of the GS enrollment in 1951-52. The record shows 2,543 held a bachelor's degree or more; of these 593 held a master's degree, 85 held a doctorate -- either a PhD, LLD or JD; 83 held an LLB, and 31 an MD. Highest enrollment of students with doctorates, a law degree or an MD were in the Department of Languages and Literature.

AMONG OURSELVES

Students in public administration who read Spanish will be interested in a new booklet recently issued by Consejo de Bienstar Rural, Caracas, Venezuela. The Title is "Estudio Administrative de la Direccion Forestal", and the author is E. W. Loveridge, chairman of the GS Department of Public Administration.

A. H. Moseman, chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences, addressed the National Wheat Growers Association meeting in Omaha, Neb., January 30. His subject was "The Time for Research".

E. R. McIntyre, chairman of the Committee on Information, was among representatives of the USDA Office of Information who attended the Southern Agricultural Workers Conference in New Orleans, February 9-11.

Naomi Harburg, who has joined the GS staff as assistant to the Registrar, is a graduate of Connecticut College for Women. Before coming to Washington she worked in the Bureau of Public Administration at Boston University. For the past few months she has been a trainee in position classification with OPS.

Jacob Ornstein, of the language and literature faculty, has been elected chairman of the Spanish V Group, devoted to contemporary Spanish literature, of the Modern Language Association of America. In addition he has been appointed chairman of the Publications Committee of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). His paper entitled "Needs in Russian Teaching Materials", presented at the annual meeting of AATSEEL, in Boston, December 27, 1952, will appear in the Modern Language Journal.

Sincerely,



Director